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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/993,318	11/14/2001	Mark M. Wang	265/082	5653
34263	7590	11/10/2003	EXAMINER	
O'MELVENY & MEYERS 114 PACIFICA, SUITE 100 IRVINE, CA 92618			WEBER, JON P	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

1651

DATE MAILED: 11/10/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/993,318

Applicant(s)

WANG ET AL.

Examiner

Jon P Weber, Ph.D.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 25-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 and 25-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 29 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 November 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

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Status of the Claims

The response with amendments filed 29 September 2003 has been received and entered. Claims 1-10 and 25-29 have been presented for examination.

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, claims 1-10 and 25-29 in the Paper filed 29 September 2003 is acknowledged. Non-elected claims have been canceled.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Information Disclosure Statements filed 05 March 2002, 28 May 2002, and 28 October 2002 have been considered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-10 and 25-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buican et al. (1987) in view of Chiou et al. (1997), Imasaka et al. (EP 635,994), and Nishimura et al. (EP 556,748).

Buican et al. (1987) disclose manipulating single particles (including CHO cells) in a microchannel by light trapping optical gradient force. Controlled guided movement is obtained

by moving the optical beam relative to the microchannels. Buican et al. (1987) lack laminar flow and do not use interferometric creation of the optical gradient.

Chiou et al. (1997) disclose interferometric optical manipulation of small dielectric particles. The interference pattern may be generated in two basic ways: with two beams (Fig. 1 b and 1c, illustrate two ways), and a single beam in concert with a grating such as Ronchi (page 9, col. 2, first full paragraph). The second method is said to be possibly more favorable because it is simpler, more compact, easily modified and more cost effective. The interference pattern may be moved with respect to the particles in the sample chamber by means of moving a mirror (M1 in Fig 2), or by moving the chamber. Movement can be at constant or variable velocity. The fringe spacing in the pattern can be varied by translating the positions of the magnifying lenses (page 8). When the interference pattern is swept across the sample chamber, the particles are moved. Two or more particles can be independently manipulated at the same time. Cigar shaped patterns can be generated to manipulate rod-shaped (e.g. biological) samples.

Imasaka et al. (EP 635,994) and Nishimura et al. (EP 556,748) both disclose that particles with different properties, e.g. size or refractive index, moving through one or more optical tweezers experience different braking forces and therefore separate by velocity.

Grier et al. (US 6,055,106) disclose using a diffraction apparatus for generating an optical gradient that optionally may be frequency, phase and time dependent and using the optical gradient to manipulate microparticles. Holograms or controllable liquid crystal arrays may be used to generate the gradient (column 5, lines 8-22). The optical tweezer trap may be moved relative to the sample (column 5, lines 23-52) so as to move the particles using mirrors and motors.

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A person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have been motivated to use the interferometric gradient of Chiou et al. (1997) for the simple optical trap of Buican et al. (1987) because of the advantages of easier computer control and sweeping of the optical gradient. Further one would be motivated to using an optical gradient force to separate particles in a flow system as taught by Imasaka et al. (EP 635,994) and Nishimura et al. (EP 556,748) in the method of Buican et al. (1987) because of the known advantages of working with larger numbers of particles and the ease of collecting separated particles in a flow system. Hence, it would have been prima facie obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to substitute the sweeping gradient force of Choiu et al. (1997) for the simple trap of Buican et al. (1987) in a microchannel flow system capable of laminar flow as taught by Imasaka et al. (EP 635,994) and Nishimura et al. (EP 556,748).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claim 29 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

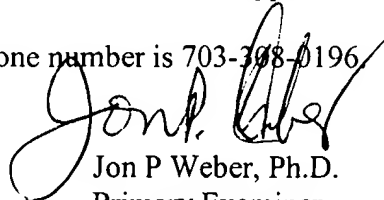
No claims are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jon P Weber, Ph.D. whose telephone number is 703-308-4015. The examiner can normally be reached on daily, off 1st Fri, 9/5/4.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Wityshyn can be reached on 703-308-4743. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0196.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon P. Weber", is written over the text of the previous paragraph.

Jon P Weber, Ph.D.
Primary Examiner
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JPW

6 November 2003